

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A snagless telecommunications connector, comprising:
  - a unitarily formed connector housing having front and rear ends, and an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends;
  - a latch beam extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;
  - first and second ears extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing, said first and second ears being unitarily formed with said connector housing; and
  - a rib extending outwardly from said latch beam.
2. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein said connector is an RJ-45 plug.
3. (canceled)
4. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein each of said first and second ears are flush with one of side walls of said connector housing.
5. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein said rib extends higher than said first and second ears.

6. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein said first and second ears extend from said upper surface above said latch beam.
7. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein said latch beam and said rib extend rearwardly between said first and second ears.
8. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein said first and second ears extend substantially perpendicularly from said upper surface of said connector housing.
9. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 8, wherein each of said first and second ears is flush with a side wall of said connector housing.
10. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein a portion of said rib tapers toward a rear end of said latch beam.
11. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 1, wherein said rib is unitarily formed with said latch beam.
12. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector, comprising:
  - a connector housing having front and rear ends, and an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends;
  - a latch beam extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;
  - first and second ears extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing; and

a rib extending outwardly from said latch beam and at least as high as said first and second ears from said upper surface.

13. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein said connector is an RJ-45 plug.
14. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein said first and second ears extend above said latch beam.
15. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein said first and second ears are formed unitarily with said connector housing.
16. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein said first and second ears extend substantially perpendicularly from said upper surface of said connector housing.
17. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein each of said first and second ears is flush with a side wall of said connector housing.
18. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein a portion of said rib tapers toward a rear end of said latch beam.
19. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein said rib is unitarily formed with said latch beam.

20. (original) A snagless RJ-45 plug, comprising:
- a connector housing having front and rear ends, an upper surface extending between said front and rear ends, and side walls extending between said front and rear ends;
  - a latch beam extending rearwardly from said front end of said housing over and adjacent said upper surface, said latch beam being deflectable to disengage said connector from a mated connection;
  - first and second ears extending outwardly from said upper surface, each of said first and second ears having a first portion tapering outwardly from said upper surface of said housing and a second portion tapering toward said rear end of said housing, each of said first and second ears being flush with one of said side walls and extending higher than said latch beam; and
  - a rib extending outwardly from said latch beam at least as high as said first and second ears from said upper surface, said latch beam and said rib extending rearwardly between said first and second ears.
21. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 20, wherein a portion of said rib tapers inwardly toward a rear end of said latch beam.
22. (original) A snagless telecommunications connector according to claim 12, wherein said rib is unitarily formed with said latch beam.